

Message Text

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S E C R E T PRETORIA 4752

NODIS - CHEROKEE

FROM LOW

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIV, PINT, RH

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: GAYLARD COMMENTS ON PROSPECTS FOR ALL-PARTIES
MEETING AND VISIT TO LUSAKA

1. GRAHAM AND I CALLED ON JACK GAYLARD TUESDAY AFTERNOON, AUGUST 15. I WANTED TO CORRECT EARLIER INFORMATION I HAD GIVEN HIM THAT THE SECRETARY WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO ATTEND A MEETING AFTER THE 27TH, HAVING LEARNED FROM THE BRITISH THAT THE SECRETARY WILL NOW BE AVAILABLE DURING THE WEEK OF THE 27TH, AND WE WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE DISCUSSION IN RECENT EXECUTIVE COUNCILS OF THE ALL-PARTIES PROPOSAL.

2. GAYLARD SAID THE MATTER HAD AGAIN BEEN DISCUSSED BRIEFLY. MUZOREWA HAD APPARENTLY NOT TAKEN ANY MORE NEGATIVE POSITION THAN SITHOLE, BOTH OF WHOM WANTED ASSURANCE THAT THE MARCH 3RD AGREEMENT WOULD BE PRESERVED. WE COMMENTED THAT OUR UNDERSTANDING FROM SITHOLE HAD BEEN THAT HE FELT IT WAS NECESSARY TO BE WILLING TO MOVE SIGNIFICANTLY FROM THE MARCH 3RD AGREEMENT AT A MEETING IN ORDER FOR IT TO HAVE ANY CHANCE OF SUCCESS, BUT THAT HE WANTED ASSURANCE THAT IF THE MEETING FAILED, SMITH WAS PREPARED TO CONTINUE TO HONOR IT. GAYLARD ACCEPTED THIS CLARIFICATION. HE SAID THE TWO WANTED MORE TIME TO CONSIDER THE
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MATTER AND HE DID NOT SEE ANY POSSIBILITY OF AN EARLY MEETING.

3. GAYLARD THEN BROUGHT UP HIS VISIT TO LUSAKA THE NIGHT BEFORE AND DESCRIBED IT IN SOME DETAIL. WHILE IT HAD BEEN USEFUL AND THE ATMOSPHERE GOOD, HE WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT NO OPPORTUNITY WAS OFFERED FOR PRIVATE TALKS BETWEEN SMITH AND NKOMO, AND THE TIME HAD BEEN TOO SHORT. THEY HAD EXPECTED AND WERE LOOKING FORWARD

TO GO TO LUANGWA THE DAY BEFORE. GARBA'S PLANE PROBLEMS HAD MADE THAT IMPOSSIBLE AND THEY HAD TO LAY ON THE TRIP AGAIN FOR MONDAY EVENING, LEAVING AFTER WORK AND ARRIVING AFTER DARK IN LUSAKA. THE MEETING TOOK PLACE AT THE PRESIDENT'S LODGE (ABOUT TEN KILOMETERS FROM LUSAKA). BEFORE PLEASANTRIES AND DINNER WERE DISPENSED WITH, IT WAS NINE IN THE EVENING. THEY TALKED UNTIL A LITTLE AFTER MIDNIGHT, BUT THERE WERE ABOUT TWELVE PEOPLE IN THE ROOM AT ALL TIMES. EVEN AFTER KAUNDA WITHDREW, HE LEFT THERE MARK CHONA (WHO TOOK NOTES THROUGHOUT), PUNABANTU, AND INTERIOR MINISTER WILTED PHIRI. GARBA WAS THERE WITH HIS ASSISTANT. NKOMO HAD ONLY MUNODAWAFA WITH HIM.

4. GAYLARD INDICATED SKEPTICISM OF NKOMO'S ASSURANCES TO SMITH THAT ROBERT MUGABE WOULD ACCEPT A SETTLEMENT AND THAT HE COULD BE CONTROLLED. NKOMO MADE CLEAR THAT MUGABE WOULD ACCEPT A SUBORDINATE ROLE TO HIMSELF. GAYLARD'S EXPERIENCE WITH THE TWO IN GENEVA LED HIM TO BELIEVE THAT MUGABE WOULD BE THE INFLUENTIAL ONE IN SUCH A PARTNERSHIP.

5. GAYLARD SAID THERE HAD BEEN INSUFFICIENT OPPORTUNITY TO REALLY GET INTO THE SUBSTANCE OF A POSSIBLE AGREEMENT. HE THEREFORE EXPECTED A FURTHER MEETING WOULD BE NECESSARY. NO FIRM PLANS HAD BEEN MADE BUT HE FULLY EXPECTED MARK CHONA TO CALL HIM ON THE PHONE SOME EVENING AND ASK WHETHER THEY COULD NOT TRAVEL THE FOLLOWING DAY TO ZAMBIA.

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6. GAYLARD FURTHER INDICATED THAT HE SAW NO POINT OF PROCEEDING WITH AN ALL-PARTIES MEETING UNTIL THE "NECESSARY GROUNDWORK" WITH NKOMO HAD BEEN COMPLETED. THUS, WHEN I TOLD HIM THAT THE SECRETARY COULD BE AVAILABLE DURING THE WEEK OF THE 27TH, HE EXPRESSED SOME SKEPTICISM THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO HOLD A MEETING THAT SOON. GRAHAM ASKED WHETHER THEY WOULD IN THE MEANTIME HOLD UP PROCEEDING WITH THEIR CONSTITUTION. GAYLARD REPLIED THAT THEY WOULD NOT, BUT THAT THE PROGRESS WAS GOING SLOWLY AND IT WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE A NUMBER OF WEEKS BEFORE ANY DOCUMENT WAS READY FOR PRINTING.

7. IN RESPONSE TO OUR QUESTION, GAYLARD SAID THAT NKOMO HAD INSISTED THAT THE MEETING BE HELD IN ABSOLUTE SECRECY. WE NOTED THAT THAT WOULD CREATE PROBLEMS FOR HIMSELF AND MR. SMITH, AND GAYLARD ACKNOWLEDGED THIS, LEADING US TO CONCLUDE THAT EITHER GAYLARD WAS UNAWARE OR WOULD NOT ADMIT THAT SMITH HAD INFORMED SITHOLE AND MUZOREWA OF HIS MEETING.

8. FINALLY, WE MENTIONED TO GAYLARD OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH BOTH MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE, NOTING THEIR VERY NEGATIVE REACTIONS TO A MEETING IN ZAMBIA, AND ASKING HIS REACTIONS TO SWAZILAND, MAURITIUS, KENYA, AND ASCENSION, TO NONE OF WHICH DID HE OBJECT.

HE THOUGHT SWAZILAND MIGHT PRESENT SOME LOGISTICAL AND PERHAPS SECURITY PROBLEMS.

9. COMMENT: IT SEEMS FAIRLY CLEAR THAT WE ARE STILL SOME DISTANCE FROM AN ALL-PARTIES MEETING. SMITH AND GAYLARD WILL WANT TO RUN THROUGH THEIR PRESENT EXERCISE WITH NKOMO, WHO IN TURN WILL PROBABLY TRY TO EXPAND IT TO INCLUDE MUGABE. IF ALL GOES WELL, SMITH MIGHT THEN BE PREPARED TO PRESS SITHOLE AND MUZOREWA TO ATTEND THE ALL-PARTIES MEETING. AT THAT POINT, WE WILL HAVE TO GET SOME KIND OF BETTER FIX ON AN ACCEPTABLE LOCATION. IN THE MEANTIME, THERE IS A GOOD POSSIBILITY THAT THE FACT OF THE LUSAKA MEETING AND ANY SUBSEQUENT GET-TOGETHER WILL LEAK, WHICH WILL FURTHER SET BACK PLANS FOR A MEETING. I HAVE SOME THOUGHTS ON WHAT WE MIGHT DO IN THIS SITUATION, WHICH WILL BE THE SUBJECT
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OF A SEPARATE FOLLOWING MESSAGE.
EDMONDSON

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